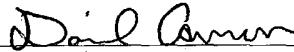


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re U.S. Patent Application)
) I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United
) States Postal Service as EXPRESS MAIL in an envelope addressed to:
) Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O.
) Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date.
 Applicant: Kuroda et al.)
)
 Serial No.)
)
 Filed: August 1, 2003)
)
 For: PREFORMAT METHOD FOR)
 MAGNETIC RECORDING MEDIUM,)
 MAGNETIC RECORDING MEDIUM,)
 AND MAGNETIC RECORDING AND)
 REPRODUCING APPARATUS)
)
 Art Unit:)

Aug. 1, 2003
 Date


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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This IDS is submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) within either of the following time periods, whichever occurs last:

- (a) within three months of either the filing date of the national application or the date of entry into the national stage; or
- (b) before the mailing date of first office action on the merits (i.e., not including actions such as restriction requirements).

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO-1449 (Information Disclosure Citation) together with copies of patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the citation of any reference on Form PTO-1449 does not constitute an admission that the reference qualifies as prior art.

It is requested that the information disclosed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be made of record in this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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 Chicago, Illinois 60606
 Telephone: (312) 360-0080
 Facsimile: (312) 360-9315
Number 24070

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.


 By: _____
 Patrick G. Burns

